Production of Life Saving Drugs by M/s. Glaxo

914. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2100 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1986 and state:

(a) whether M/s. Glaxo is licenced to produce streptomycin;

(b) if so, the licenced capacity and the reasons for non-production of streptomycin;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no shortage of streptomycin bulk drug in the country;

(d) what are the reasons for non-production of tablets and syrups based on streptomycin and negligible production of seras and vaccines by this company;

(e) whether Government are aware of the fact that M/s. Glaxo has deliberately reduced their production of life-saving vaccines, T. B. Injections and Antibiotic vials and on the other hand increased the production of vitamins and non-essential formulations for above the licenced capacity; and

(f) if so, what steps have been taken to dissuade the company from adopting such practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) M/s. Glaxo is not licensed to produce Streptomycin bulk drug.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) The production of any product depends on its demand and corporate plans of the company. The companies produce formulation tailored to the market demand. No specific instances of shortage of these products have been reported and therapeutic equivalents produced by various other manufactures are adequately available.

Price of Ranitidine tablets

915. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the price fixed for Ranitidine tablets;

(b) whether it is a fact that Zinetech tablets are being sold at a very high price;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the company producing these drugs is charging more than 500 per cent mark up whereas the maximum mark up allowed under drugs price control order is 100 per cent; and

(d) if so, how such a high price has been allowed for this product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Price of Ranitidine Tablets has not been fixed under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

(b) and (c) M/s. Biotech Pharma who are the manufacturers of Zinetac Tablets are exempt from price control under he Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979 as their sales turn over during the last accounting year was less than 50 lakhs.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) and (c).

Prices being charged by M/s. Warner Hindustan

916. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2104 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1986 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s.